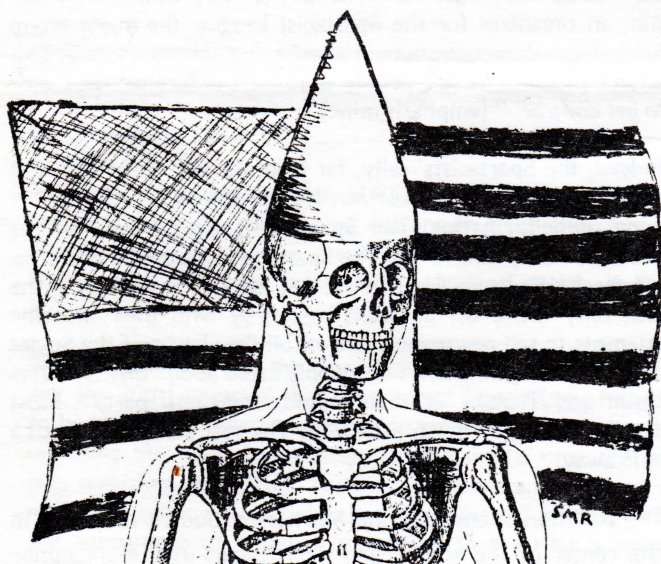


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Klan Foes Battle Police



KKK ROUTED FROM WASHINGTON

The Washington, DC metropolitan area has had the misfortune of an increase in the activity of right-wing hate groups in the past few years. For example, neighboring Montgomery county has had several hundred anti-Semitic acts in the last year. The most publicized in November included large swastikas and slogans placed on several places of worship. A demonstration by the Ku Klux Klan in that county the first weekend of November brought out a few members of that group, as well as many more bus loads of reporters. They vowed (both the press and the KKK) to reinvade on Thanksgiving weekend.

The KKK is perhaps most well known for numerous acts of terrorism against Jews, Blacks, and Catholics, as well as against immigrants in the inter-war years. The citizens of the city of Washington, being 70 percent black, with sizable other non-white groups, were not overjoyed with the prospect that this group would demonstrate in their full white-sheeted regalia in the heart of the city. Organizations opposed to the KKK asked supporters to come to McPherson Square, close to the path of the scheduled KKK march, and non-violently express their disapproval of the event. The All Peoples' Congress for example specifically expressed that a non-violent protest in the spirit of the early 1960s civil rights movement was desired. In fact a multi-ethnic mix of people did assemble at the park. Blacks, whites, Palestinians attended, as well as a mix of supporters representing various progressive ideologies.

A RIOTER'S PERSPECTIVE

On a sunny and cold Saturday afternoon, an anti-KKK demonstration in downtown Washington blossomed into a full-scale street battle, pitting a crowd of mostly young, black, white, Palestinian, and Latino people against the D.C. Metropolitan police. The cover story in the next day's Washington Post said that the rioters "...turned their rage on the city. . . ." The D.C. Police Chief Maurice Turner spoke of persons "hell-bent on crime". The Mayor explained it as "frustration about the Klan". As one of those who were throwing rocks and beer bottles at the cops, I saw things from a much different perspective. The one thing that most of us seemed to agree on was that we had a common enemy—the KKK and the cops, together. People who fought the police weren't "hell-bent on crime" or angry at the man whose bicycle store was looted. It was the police who had come to protect the Ku Klux Klan and who ended up clubbing and gassing us.

I will try to describe what I took part in. I will try to keep it short. I don't pretend to speak for all of those who fought and trashed, I am a member of no "party" or political organization, I represent no one but myself. I am an Irish-American young man, unemployed.

I came up to McPherson Square around 12:45 or 1:00 pm. I don't know how the fighting started. It seemed to start on 15th Street south of McPherson Square. A big problem for us was finding enough bottles and bricks to throw at the cops. I remember running down an alley off 15th St. and finding a beer bottle, I ran back onto the street and threw it high into the air, it smashed at the feet of some cops. A black guy gave me another bottle. The second bottle fell short. Tear gas drove us back up into the park. I'd never been gassed before. It stung my eyes badly and tasted like pepper in my sinuses.

At McPherson Square the "All-Peoples' Congress" speaker tried to help out the cops and defuse the situation, calling us "provocateurs" if we dared to fight back. The A.P.C. "Marshalls" tried to keep everyone within the confines of the park. A lot of people moved across the street to a parking lot at I and 15th. Tear gas filled the area. I bought two cans of Coca-Cola from a food vendor and without opening them I gave one to some white guy and threw mine as hard as I could at a bunch of cops. The guy I gave the other can to later told me that he pegged a cop in the head with his can. An unopened twelve-ounce can of soda makes for a considerable anti-cop weapon.

In the parking lot a black guy and I looked for missiles. We

found a concrete block and broke it into pieces by lifting it and dropping it against another concrete block. The fighting died down along I St. and people began wandering off towards Madison Place and Lafayette Park.

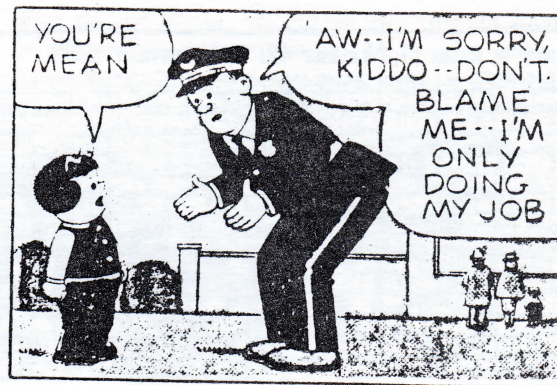
Madison Place below H St. was blocked by "cavalry"—police on horseback. People jeered the cops and threw debris. Occasionally two or three cops with clubs would run toward the people at the front of the crowd, only to retreat under a hail of sticks and rocks. The mounted police moved back and forth. At the front row of people throwing rocks at cops were four or five kids who couldn't have been more than fifteen or sixteen years old. The crowd moved forward, closer to the mounted police. The pigs on horseback turned and galloped away from us towards the White House, everybody cheered and a hundred people ran after the cops. Maybe the cops had planned to "retreat" to Pennsylvania Avenue but to us it looked like victory, like cops on horseback had turned tail and run from all of us. The photographers and TV video people standing on the side had very shocked looks on their faces. The reporters and commentators who never saw the riot made ponderous statements about "rage" and "frustration". I'm sure there was a lot of that, too, but what I most remember was a festival atmosphere, a sense of exhilaration and wild joy, the smiling faces and laughter as people occupied the streets and ran after the cops. People were having a lot of fun. Seeing those cops on the run under a hail of rocks was definitely the high point of the day. And all of this happening within one block of Reagan's White House. The first DC riot of the 1980s.

Have you ever participated in a riot? Words fail me when I try to describe how beautiful this riot was, the thrill of insurrection. Throughout the afternoon little areas of DC, one or two city blocks at a time, belonged to *us*, not to the businessmen, landlords, and bankers. The guardians of the capitalists, the cops, couldn't come in. People could trash an ex-President's house, overturn police cars, and loot. In the TV news coverage much was made of the looting of the bike store, but the breaking of all the windows of the Madison National Bank wasn't shown on the evening news. And that bank had been singled out.

"Get the bank!" people cried, running across Vermont Avenue, "Get the bank!" People gathered bricks. I was running alongside one man as he pitched a brick underhanded through one window, we laughed, turned to each other and shook hands. Every window in that bank was smashed. I've thrown bricks through bank windows before, it's a very good feeling. No one should apologize for trashing a bank.

The news media were as racist as ever in their coverage of the riot. The photos in the Post and the TV coverage only showed black people looting and fighting the cops when in fact it was black people and white people acting together. The American media attempted to portray the event as a race riot. It wasn't a race riot. It was a very small example of class warfare, the disposessed against the people who own this city. It wasn't just the KKK. It was a lot more than that.

The self-appointed "leaders of the proletariat" came off looking at best comic, and as often as not they acted as the allies of the police. The Marxist-Leninist groups that sponsored the anti-Klan rallies dealt with the issue of a fascist march in DC in typically opportunist fashion, staging rallies with their boring speakers, imploring the "masses" to endorse their programs, talking of the need for the people to give power to the leadership of whichever clique was sponsoring whichever rally.



To quote the Washington Post, Sunday, November 28:

"Organizers of the anti-Klan protests pleaded unsuccessfully for an end to the violence. 'The rally is over, take down your banners before we get hurt. The rally is over,' exhorted Al Nelson, an organizer for the Spartacist League, the major group behind the demonstration at the Capitol. He said later, 'This wasn't planned. A few people were hurt before *we were able to get control*' " (emphasis mine).

Indeed, the Spartacists' rally, far from the site of the riot, was over. As for the "control" Mr. Nelson speaks of, he is either lying or hallucinating. The Spartacist League never had the "control" they longed for. The Spartacist League did not drive off the KKK. From what I'd seen of the S.L. before noon, the S.L. only drove off innocent passers-by with their tiresome attempts to sell newspapers and extoll the virtues of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Few people cared about their fuhrers Lenin and Trotsky or their stupid "vanguard party". Most people didn't pay much attention. The real party was about a mile away.

The coalition sponsoring the McPherson Square rally was in the center of the action, and their leaders used every opportunity to attempt to keep the action from happening. The "All-Peoples' Congress" aided the police by having their crowd-control marshalls herd people into McPherson Square and for several hours during the height of the violence a succession of political hacks implored the crowd to stop breaking windows and fighting the police and to obey the authority of

A.P.C. Happily, A.P.C. failed miserably. The reformist and power-hungry nature of A.P.C. was also demonstrated weeks before November 27 by their emphasis on demanding that the mayor revoke the Klan's rally permit. A.P.C. preferred to deal with the KKK through bureaucrats. Hoping to buy themselves a slice of the political pie with Marion Barry, perhaps? "Petitioning" the mayor and the chief of police, lawsuits, and then as a last resort they go to the working people of DC. The only way to fight violent racist groups like the Klan is for working and poor people of all colors to ignore bureaucrats and politicians-to-be, organize freely to fight the KKK and the cops who protect them. But it's not just a question of direct confrontation. Working people and poor people have to be aware of the larger questions raised by a fascist group like the KKK, questions of the power of cops and landlords, bankers and bosses, of the complex nature of racism and capitalism, and how racism divides working people from each other.

The "All-Peoples' Congress" doesn't believe in fighting to do away with the capitalist system, they believe that working people should be "represented". There is one thing that all

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MISDIRECTED VIOLENCE

Seldom if ever is there a time when violence is positive or constructive. It usually breeds further violence if not misunderstanding and hate as well. Yet there comes a time when communities or individuals faced with violent repression or death, from a minority or majority, have the right to defend themselves directly. Simply stated, blacks and whites, Jews and gentiles, have the right and obligation to act in their own defense when threatened by the KKK, Nazis, or others.

This does not mean that fascist groups should not be given the opportunity to speak. On the contrary, let them speak their foolish ugly hate. Let them expose themselves for the bigots they are. Violently silencing them only runs the risk of generating sympathy for them as an oppressed group. And opens up the question as to who will be allowed freedom of speech and will be denied, and by who it will be denied.

Yet without refusing the Klan freedom of speech they should also receive a clear message that they may go not a step further in spreading their hate. To this end they should taste their own medicine anytime their hate takes form, whether in vandalism or lynching. This does not mean sending a brick crashing through the plate glass windows of shop owners you don't know and who might very well be on your side. Instead, grab your bricks and bottles and hoof on over to Nazi headquarters in Arlington at 2507 N. Franklin Road. Or if Maryland's Washington County is closer, stop by Samuel G. Boyer's (Maryland's Grand Dragon of the KKK) and let him know how you feel.

XXX

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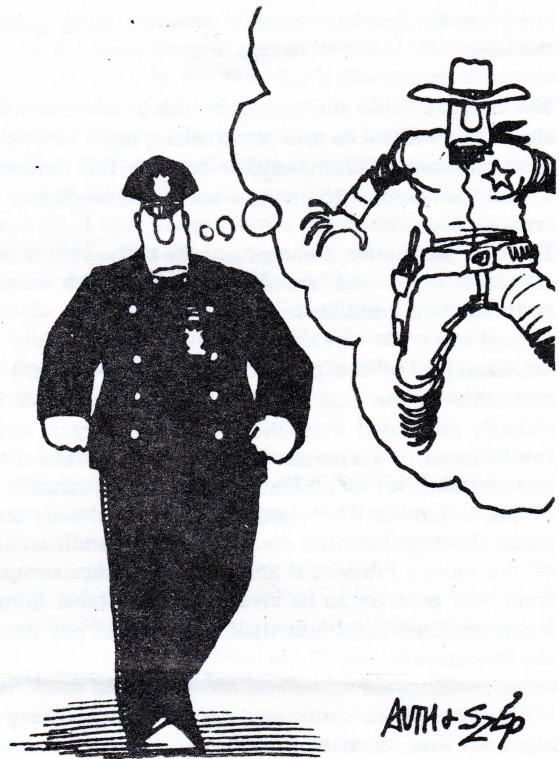
The local government, in an attempt to diffuse the force of the demonstration, encouraged citizens to go to churches and distribute food. It was as if god would save the city, and the government was only interested in feeding people if hate-groups were visibly active in the city.

The Washington Post, the day before the demonstration (Friday the 26th) reported that police chief Turner (who happens to be black) had asked people not to attend the demonstration opposing the KKK (presumably he had similar unstated feelings regarding the KKK). Turner's statement and cautious remarks by other city officials had the effect of at least giving the appearance of minimal opposition to the KKK's arrival. The Post predicted 200 KKKers would march.

On the Saturday of the demonstration, fewer than 40 Klansmen had appeared. They were outnumbered about 3 to 1 by reporters, and by about 100 to 1 by anti-Klan demonstrators (the Post's estimate). The Klan, noting its predicament, decided not to proceed with its march. Instead, one Klansman in a three-piece suit, carrying a Bible, walked unhindered and unnoticed down the main street of the scheduled march. The remaining Klansmen were bused to a main park by the police. They made a short statement, and they were then quickly transported out of town. These events on Saturday began and ended before most of the crowd had realized what had occurred. In the words of Turner, "I hope they aren't going to get mad when they realize they were duped." It turned out that a few people, perhaps a hundred, did respond by first attacking the police, and later some local stores along in the two blocks leading away from the city. Roughly forty people were arrested after the KKK was escorted out of the city. It is unfortunate that the actions of a few hotheads dominated reports.

Clearly a local victory. It is unlikely that we see these sheets in the District in the near future. The effect nationally remains to be seen.

HATSHESPUT



ANARCHY DAY FESTIVALS PLANNED

Tentative dates for the Anti-Authoritarian Fairs are May 1 in Philadelphia and September 12 in D.C. If you'd like to help out, get in touch with your local AAA group.

Libertarian artists: please send two copies of any posters you'd like on exhibition the day of the festivals to AAA, Box 840, District of Columbia, 20044.



INSURANCE?

Christopher Sharpe and Scott M. Rodell both echoed a statement that is being made quite often these days. "How do we implement actions through which we can attain our goals of freedom and liberty?" I think that this question should be addressed very seriously at this time. Anarchism is action. We are only anarchists, we are only alive human beings, if we act. So . . . What follows is a proposal for collective and autonomous action. I hope there will be feedback on this. As a matter of fact, I wouldn't mind it if in each issue of *Emancipation* there grew to be a column which contained new proposals, comments, and feedback on past proposals, and "progress reports" of actual experimentation.

So here it comes, ready? . . . Insurance. Now promise me you'll read the rest of this article.

Those of us who have left home and are out on our own, and who are not so "fortunate" as to be working some job that includes coverage, run a pretty big risk. If by some chance we should get injured we would have to pay all the costs ourselves. With the present cost of doctors, medication, and hospitals, that could easily wipe most of us out. Any savings we have, any land we have bought, whatever, bang—gone, to cover the bills.

The only available alternatives to this precarious situation are either to continue to take our chances, begin paying premiums to some insurance company, or beseech Ted Kennedy and his fellow "democrats" to institute socialized medicine.

The first alternative is dangerous, the second helps support the corporate state, and the third is ridden with corruptibility and a crushing addition to taxes.

An example of the problems with establishment insurance companies is the case of Prudential Insurance Co. Prudential recently purchased thousands of acres in Oregon, entering into the business of corporate farming. They forced a number of family farms out of business and are taking valuable water out of the Columbia River (an area which is already strapped by water shortages) for use on their land. In addition a great deal of the money Prudential and other insurance companies take from you goes on to be invested in profitable things like defense companies (the war machine), and to pay the salaries of the bosses and clerks of the company.

If elements of our dream are mutual aid and taking control of our own lives, then why not come together collectively and begin a health insurance co-op? It could be coordinated by a collective dedicated to that task. There would be no paid hierarchy living off the fun—and the membership could have control over where the investments were made.

The present rate of insurance companies is between \$50 and \$70 a month. We could set a rate of 10 or 20 dollars a month per person. The insurance cooperative could offer \$10,000 coverage to each member, at \$100-200 deductible. What that means is, if you have medical bills of \$100-200 or less, you pay them. If it's more than that the insurance cooperative would pay them up to \$10,000. The collective would keep records of who has kept up on payments, look into investments for the fund, and publish a quarterly statement on the assets of the fund.

If 1000 people joined this cooperative, at the end of one year the fund would have potential assets of \$240,000. The interest on that alone at a decent rate is \$24,000 per year.

What do you think? Should we look into it? We have several people who would be interested in doing the background work for it. But before we do we want to know if anyone out there is interested. If you are then we will attempt to submit articles to *Open Road*, *Co-evolutionary Quarterly*, etc, to spread the word around and get this thing started.

If this sounds like a good idea to you, send your alias, address, number of friends interested, and rate per month you could pay to the following address:

The Insurance Collective
317 W. Seneca St.
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

RIOTER

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politicians have in common. If they have power, they'll hurt you if you don't do what they want you to do. Revolution is fine in El Salvador (but not in Poland). Here we sign petitions and vote for the Democrats. Or are we supposed to vote for the "Workers' World Party" and its Stalinist candidates for president? On November 27th people seemed to prefer rioting than listening to the boring lectures of the badly misnamed "Workers' World Party" and the A.P.C.

Last week on the network TV news I saw a report on how the current depression is affecting the wealthy classes in DC. Apparently, it does not affect them badly. Sales of luxury automobiles are up. The same goes for houses in Georgetown in the seven-figure range. No, the rich aren't like you and me, they have all the power and the wealth, and they get it by having other people work for them. Anyone who lives in or visits the DC area, anyone who's not sleepwalking, can see the obscene contrasts here. Compare the expensive restaurants and chic boutiques and fashionable young trendies and limousines, compare that to the unemployment rate, the eviction rate, the seventy homeless people who died of exposure on the streets last winter and all those who will die the same way this winter. DC has an infant mortality rate equal to that of many third-world countries. Go check out how things look in Anacostia and then try reading the "Washingtonian" magazine. That'll piss you off!

It's not just here, it's all over the world. We are trapped in a seemingly unending cycle of depressions and wars, from Gdansk to Soweto, Tokyo to La Paz, other people too are drafted and jailed and ruled, seemingly powerless. We learn to fight back. The only things we have to be sorry about are that innocent people can get hurt and that we didn't trash a dozen banks. Sometime when the rebellion is large enough we should sack the White House. Today the ruling classes eat black caviar and truffles at \$400 a pound. Someday, we will devour them.

"Your future dream is a shopping scheme. . . ."

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